

State Board of Education
February 17, 2009
Item K

Team: Lifelong Learning, Vermont DOE and Vermont DOL

Update Topic: Department of Education and Department of Labor/Workforce Development Council collaboration in support of a systemic approach to 21st Century career education for Vermont students

Alignment with Goals:

Goal 1: Support high-quality, innovative instruction to improve student achievement.

Statutory Authority:

16 V.S.A. Chapter 37; Federal Perkins Vocational Education Act

Background Information:

The information age, a global economy, new workplace expectations, and the rapid, continuous change of the 21st century are demanding an education transformation. Within this context, Career and Technical Education is fast becoming an integral part of education reform discussions nationwide.¹ Today's students need new skills for success in life. Vermont's Secondary and Adult Education system must adapt to this new world. We must transform the focus of our Career and Technical Education programming from occupational skills training to the broader, higher level, and more durable knowledge and skills within a career field. Occupational skill mastery alone can no longer be the CTE goal. Every high school student should have the opportunity to acquire rigorous academic, technical, and employability skills. Students must be prepared to enter college or a challenging career in modern workplaces where continuous learning and adaptability are the norm.

Transformation efforts as well as initiatives aligned to the reauthorized Federal Carl Perkins Act of 2006 present significant opportunities to strengthen the regional CTE delivery system and support education transformation. However, the true potential for high schools partnering with CTE to transform the learning opportunities for all secondary students and adult learners will require the commitment and support of all stakeholders in the system. The breadth of career and college options as well as post secondary career opportunities available to our students will be determined by the scope and success of this transformation.

Purpose of Discussion:

The purpose of this discussion is to explore alignment of Department of Education and Department of Labor/Workforce Development Council goals in supporting education Transformation. The discussion will also provide the opportunity to inform the State Board on current collaborative initiatives in which the two agencies are engaged. Finally, we will seek the Board's input and support in continuing and enhancing our collaborative efforts in developing Industry and Education Centers of Excellence (IECE) and in exploring new additional areas for collaboration such as:

- career awareness and career pathway awareness

¹ National Association of State Boards of Education. *Learning to Work, Working to Learn* (Alexandria, VA:NASBE, 2008)

- program and resource coordination (i.e., Workforce Development Programs, Career and Technical Education Programs, Education Transformation Programs)
- adult technical education

Format:

1) WDC: Introduction

- Who and what is the WDC? Mission and membership
- Basics of Workforce Challenge Statement – Escalating skill demands, Global competition.
- We see objectives outlined in the Board's policy statements in common with the WDC's objectives
- Objectives in common that we believe can be developed at the strategic level:
 - Improved career awareness investments
 - Real world work experience – Internships
 - Alternative and intensive technical education programs
 - Improved continuum and linkages between agencies and institutions
- Funding is limited but flexible. We have had some good successes, but rather than fund random acts of excellence, we would like to use our funds as seed investments to lever positive and lasting change as part of a joint strategy with colleges, VSAC, and DOE
- We have a number of common interests and common objectives. We should align our work and pool our resources.

2) DOE: Opportunities for Collaboration

- Developing a better continuum of education and training
There is currently significant "disconnect" as people go through the various institutions of the system (i.e., PreK-12 to Tech Ed, to Higher Ed, or to continuing Ed and Adult Learning, and to employment. A coordinated system is needed that provides all students with the support and guidance necessary to achieve their potential.
 - Industry and Education Center of Excellence (IECE), beginning with Hospitality

Staff Available:

Pat Moulton.Powden, Commissioner, Department of Labor

John W. O'Kane, Manager of Community Relations and Government Affairs, IBM Microelectronics

David White, Director, Lifelong Learning, Department of Education

Vermont's Industry and Education Centers of Excellence (IECE)



The Vermont Department of Education (DOE) in partnership with the Vermont Department of Labor (DOL) and the State Workforce Development Council is establishing Industry and Education Centers of Excellence (IECE). The goals of the IECE are to strengthen the state's career education and training programs, to provide Vermonters incentives to pursue careers in Vermont, and to support sustainable economic and socially responsible commerce.

Elements of the IECE are to establish programs of study from 9th through 12th grade with post secondary transitions to occupational apprenticeships, associate degree programs and bachelor degree programs. Additionally, the IECE will provide Vermont's youth with career and work opportunities that result in livable wages as a minimum. Each program of study will address the technical, academic, and employability competencies essential for success.

Through the IECE initiative, industry skills councils will be established. Each council will be made up of 5-10 key employers from high performance organizations, high school instructors, career and technical education instructors, postsecondary staff or faculty members, organized labor (when available), DOL and DOE representatives. A council will assist in determining workforce and skill gaps, skill standards and measurement criteria, credentialing and employment selection methods, facilitate workforce apprenticeships, industry and career promotion assistance, and support career ladder and advancement opportunities.

Another important function of an IECE is to negotiate effective region wide articulation agreements among high schools/career centers, registered apprenticeships/employers and colleges utilizing agreed upon performance based measures of achievement. A memorandum of understanding will be created to include advanced standing in college or apprenticeship programs, scholarship awards, and/or preference in hiring. Benefits to students will be lower education costs, higher wage rates, and ease of transition to advanced education and training. Initial IECE efforts will focus on Hospitality and Culinary.

For more information on IECE, contact Doug Webster at doug.webster@state.vt.us

Vermont's Industry and Education Centers of Excellence (IECE)



A Partnership to develop and promote a coherent system that provides

- engaging opportunities for students to acquire rigorous academic, technical, and employability skills that will enable them to pursue high quality careers in Vermont.
- sustainable economic and workforce development in Vermont.

